

Selectmen: we support expanding North Hill

To the editor:

The board of selectmen is recommending that the town proceed with the much discussed expansion of the North Hill Golf Course to 18 holes from its present nine holes. We believe we have addressed all of the issues raised at last year's town meeting.

The concerns last year centered on four issues: cost, profitability, environmental concerns and water quality. This year the board appointed a committee of five citizens and asked them to address those concerns. The committee has done a superb job of pulling together information on all of the issues, which included thousands of pages of information and professional studies on water quality, fertilizer and pesticide management,

golf course design, construction costs, profitability and environmentally sensitive areas of the land. The committee is chaired by Jerry Dewing and includes former selectman Pat Dowd, conservation commission member Dan Baker, former president of the Massachusetts Golfers Association Paul Evans and former golf course superintendent and licensed agronomist Craig Royle. The committee spent hundreds of hours of their own time and money researching the subject and reported to us Monday, Feb. 27, that the construction of the golf course was indeed feasible and recommended that we proceed with the expansion.

The committee's report included recommendations on

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■ Selectmen on golf



File photo

Embattled greens? — Selectmen want to expand the North Hill golf course, but they may face a fight at town meeting.

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and analysis of all of the issues raised at last year's town meeting. With respect to environmentally sensitive land abutting the North Hill marsh, they recommended placing the most sensitive 90 acres of land under the control of the conservation commission to protect it forever from environmental danger. They analyzed the \$45,000 water quality study performed by SEA Consultants for the town and agreed with its conclusion that the construction of the additional nine holes with proper fertilizer and pesticide management by a licensed agronomist would not damage or endanger our aquifer. They analyzed golf course construction cost and concluded that expansion could be achieved at a cost of \$1,300,000 not \$3,000,000 as discussed last year. They had this conclusion affirmed by golf course architect Philip Wogan, who toured the land with the committee and gave them his written opinion. Lastly, they analyzed and confirmed the fea-

sibility analysis performed by RKG Associates, professionals in golf course design and analysis with respect to profitability. They determined that using the most conservative estimates, North Hill will generate \$250,000 per year in net revenue to the town by its third year of operation and over \$400,000 per year by its tenth year.

Based on the committee's report and recommendations and our own analysis about the course and its place in our long-range plans for Duxbury, we are recommending that the town proceed with expansion. We take very seriously the sacred trust you place in us as your elected executive body and assure you that we are not making this recommendation in haste nor would we recommend it if we thought our water supply or environment was endangered by it. We ask that you come to town meeting, listen to the facts, support our position and approve the expansion.

Jim Murphy